

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 10 August 2000
 Name of applicant/court: Secretary for Internal Affairs
 Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
 Title of Publication: My Name Is Joe
 Other Known Titles: Not Stated
 Director: Ken Loach
 Producer: Rebecca O'Brien
 Publisher: Not Applicable
 Author: Not Applicable
 Format: Video Recording VHS/PAL
 Country of Origin: UK
 Language: English, with English Subtitles

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Components of film originally examined:

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|
| Feature: | My Name Is Joe | Running time: | 101.01 |
| Trailers: | Copyright Warning Notice | Running time: | 0.16 |
| | 21st Century Picture Notice | | 0.32 |
| | Hardball | | 1.49 |
| | Restaurant | | 2.25 |
| | The Lost Son | | 1.46 |
| Total Running time: | | | 107.49 |

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains violence and offensive language.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: 09 August 2000

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The publication entitled *My Name Is Joe* has been classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The publication was given a classification rating of unrestricted: suitable for mature audiences 16 years of age and over by the Labelling Body on 6 May 1999 with a consumer note of 'contains violence and offensive language'. The Chief Censor of Film and Literature directed the Secretary for Internal Affairs to submit the publication for classification under s13(1)(b) of the FVPC Act following complaints from members of the public about the use of offensive language and the rating of the publication.

The publication is a contemporary urban drama which concerns issues of alcoholism, violence, drug use, crime, and suicide. It is presented in a gritty and realistic manner with the dialogue being heavily weighted with offensive language. The dialogue is also repeated in English subtitles as the heavy Scottish accents of the actors are often difficult to understand for audiences outside of the United Kingdom. The cumulative effect of this presentation of offensive language along with the realistic nature of the publication are considered likely to be injurious to younger members of the community. The injury is determined to be the normalisation of offensive language in conversation.

This is not considered sufficient to restrict the availability of the publication, but coupled with the depictions of drug use and suicide it is considered that the publication be restricted to persons 16 years of age and over.

The Classification Office must apply the legislative criteria to this publication in a manner consistent with the provisions of ss5 and 6 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act. The limitation on availability of the publication is reasonable, no more than necessary to prevent injury to the public good, and consistent with Parliament's intention to restrict publications which deal with offensive language, violence, drug use, suicide, and crime, in the form of dramatic entertainment, in such a manner that their availability is likely to create such injury.

OFLC Ref: 1012